

Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Social Services



ONS TRANSMITTAL NUMBER 05-03

Date: May 20, 2005

Subject: 2005 Virginia Refugee Day

To: ONS Resettlement Provider Directors

From: Kathy A. Cooper
Virginia State Refugee Coordinator
Virginia Office of Newcomer Services

Contact: Kent Harrison kent.harrison@dss.virginia.gov or 804-726-7931

The Office of Newcomer Services in the Department of Social Services and the Virginia Newcomer Health Program in the Department of Health have requested Governor Mark S. Warner to designate June 20, 2005 as Virginia Refugee Day through an official proclamation. When the proclamation is signed, ONS will make copies available through its Website.

The theme for this year's Virginia Refugee Day is "Refugee Rights." ONS is designing a lobby display for June 13 – June 23 in the VDSS Home Office as well as print items that reflect this theme.

ONS is aware that many of the refugee resettlement providers are planning events to recognize the courage, contributions and achievements of the refugees that have been resettled in Virginia and the solemnity of this year's theme. This year I request that resettlement provider directors ask their local mayor, city or town manager, or county board of supervisors to proclaim June 20, 2005 as Virginia Refugee Day in the communities where refugees have resettled in Virginia. Attached is a proclamation template that you may use for your local proclamation. The template will be available on the ONS Website at www.dss.virginia.state/family/ons by May 24 for you to download.

Also attached is a form for service providers directors to fill out regarding local Refugee Day special events. ONS will contribute a limited number of promotional and educational items to programs that return the complete recognition events form by fax to Kent Harrison at 804-726-7127 or by e-mail.

Thank you,

Kathy Cooper